

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 42-57, previously presented, are pending, with claim 55 being amended hereby.

Entry of the amendment to claim 55 after final rejection is requested, as it places the application in immediate form for allowance, as explained below.

Present claims 42-54 and 57 stand allowed.

Claims 55 and 56, rejected under 35 USC 103(a) are rendered allowable by the instant amendment.

According to the statement of rejection (Office Action, pages 2-3),

if claim 55 were amended in step (d) to recite "immobilizing the nucleic acids obtained on at least one support according to claim 42", then claims 55 and 56 would be allowable.

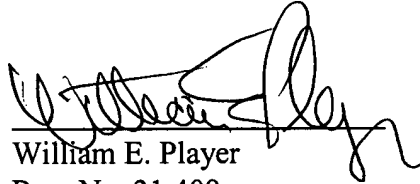
Since claim 55 is amended, hereby, as helpfully suggested by the Examiner, claims 55 and 56 are rendered allowable. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for kindly suggesting the amendment to claim 55 in order to place the application in allowable form.

Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

JACOBSON HOLMAN PLLC

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William E. Player", is written over a horizontal line.

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